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Fall 2017

Newsletter, Fall 2017

Golden Gate University School of Law

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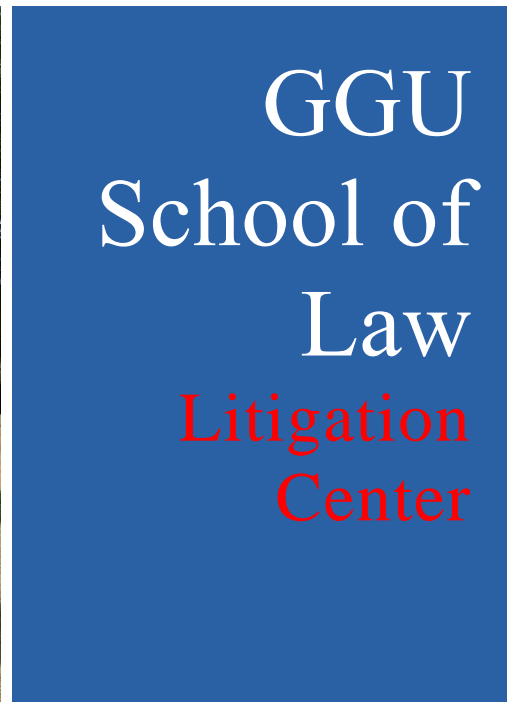


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Recommended Citation

Golden Gate University School of Law, "Newsletter, Fall 2017" (2017). *Litigation Center at Golden Gate University School of Law*. 6.
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IN VINO VERITAS: "IN WINE THERE IS TRUTH"

In Vino Veritas – 2017 National Mock Trial Competition

by Kaelyn J. Romey, Associate Professor & Litigation Center Director

This October, GGU welcomed 16 teams from around the country to compete in the *2017 In Vino Veritas Mock Trial Competition*. The four day national competition included receptions, lunch CLE programs, 25 trials, and a final round on Sunday October 29th in Sonoma County "Wine Country."

TEAM AWARDS

1st Place

Loyola University Chicago School of Law

2nd Place

Tulane University School of Law

3rd Place

Barry University School of Law

4th Place

American University Washington College of the Law



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Best Overall Advocate

Jackson Smith, Tulane University School of Law

Best Opening Statement

Anna Potter, Tulane University School of Law

Best Cross Examination

Aris Rotella, Pace University School of Law

Best Direct Examination

Kierson Commons, George Mason School of Law

Best Closing Argument

Brandon Pearlman, Brooklyn Law School



2017 Judges' Reception

Dean Anthony Niedwickie joined the In Vino Veritas Tournament coordinators at the Judges' Reception to celebrate a successful Halloween weekend tournament. The reception was held at the University Club and was attended by Judges, Attorneys, Students, and a host of former Baxter Fellows.

2018 - SAVE THE DATE!

The 7th Annual In Vino Veritas Mock Trial Competition
October 18-21, 2018.

Registration information coming in 2018.

A big heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers!

This competition would not have been a success without more than 200 Judges, Professors, attorney evaluators, students, witnesses, bailiffs, national trial team members, and family and friends.



Litigation Center Events

by **Dustin Cameron**, Baxter Fellow in Litigation

SPRING 2018 - UPCOMING CLE PROGRAMS

Voir Dire: Racial Bias on Juries (Jan)
What Judges Wish You Knew (Feb)
Managing Difficult Witnesses (Feb)
Effective Courtroom Technology (Mar)
The Art of Managing a Law Firm (Apr)

For updates of dates and times visit
<http://www.ggulitigation.com>



FALL SEMINARS & EVENTS

LITIGATION BOOT CAMP

The litigation center began the Fall semester hosting four days of litigation boot camp. Trial Team coaches, professors, and attorneys demonstrated case analysis, effective presentation skills, and trial tips. National Trial Team members honed their evidentiary skills and received individualized feedback on their presentation skills from GGU's performance coach.

Baxter Brown Bag Lunch Series INTERVIEW TIPS

The Baxter Fellows hosted students at weekly meetings to provide tips on professionalism, conducting successful interviews, and provided demonstrations on evidentiary skills.

1ST ANNUAL 1ST STEP REUNION

The litigation center hosted the first ever 1st Step Reunion. STEP alumni were in attendance and provided insight into how the program helped them achieve their litigation goals. Look out for

details regarding the 2nd STEP reunion this Spring during *Homecoming Week*.

GGU LITIGATION ALUMNI PANEL

The Litigation Center brought together a GGU alumni panel for a lunchtime conversation with practicing litigators. Experienced panelists discussed their transition from the Mock Courtroom to the real Courtroom. They also provided career advice and shared how litigators can utilize specialized litigation courses and trial team experience to prepare for litigation employment after graduation.

LITIGATION CENTER FALL SEMINAR SERIES: CIVIL

DISCOVERY TIPS & TRICKS

As part of its practical training program, the Litigation Center hosted a free MCLE event sharing civil discovery insights. Lauren

Jones from Marc Branco & Partners, provided an overview of civil discovery and instruction on how to effectively draft and answer discovery interrogatories. The focus of her talk was to best serve your client's interests.

CIVIL DISCOVERY TOP FIVE TIPS

1. Professional Courtesy
2. Be Reasonable – Judges like that
3. Do the heavy lifting
4. Use your client- they know their case better than anyone
5. Calendar EVERYTHING

BY LAUREN JONES ESQ.
 Marc Branco & Partners P.C.



CONSIDERING GGU LAW?

REQUEST INFO

☎ 415-442-6630

☎ 800-GGU-4YOU

THE GGU ADVOCATE

The GGU Litigation Center chooses a select number of students each academic calendar year to join the National Trial Team to represent GGU at mock trial competitions throughout the country. These select students embody a GGU advocate:

1. *someone who thinks creatively; communicates persuasively and clearly;*
2. *presents with poise and confidence; has a command of the law and rules of evidence;*
3. *And is courteous, professional and ethical.*

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Volunteer as a:

1. **Guest Speaker for 1st STEP, Trial Advocacy, or a Litigation Seminar Series**
2. **Mock Trial Judge**
3. **Mock Trial Coach**

Email Baxterfellow@ggu.edu for more information

Mock Trial Success Stories

GGU National Trial Team Wins 1st Place at SFTLA Mock Trial Competition

Congratulations to GGU National Trial Team for a 1st place win over Hastings, Santa Clara, and Stanford at the (SFTLA) San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association Mock Trial Competition. Zach Porter (3L), Nathan Putney (3L), Roxana Araujo (2L), and Mackenzie Parker (2L) presented full trials in a wrongful death case, won motions and evidentiary objections, and ultimately brought home the gold.



GGU National Trial Team Wins BEST BRIEF at STETSON Pre-Trial Competition

Congratulations to National Trial Team in the Stetson Pretrial Competition for rocking the competition and bringing home the “Best Defense Brief Award”. Our student advocates, Ana Allec (3L), Ashley Lotti (3L), Crystal Mendoza-Velarde (3L), and Robert Shaw (2L) did an outstanding job. Congratulations.



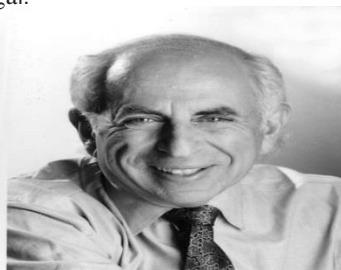
THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF CROSS EXAMINATION

The late Irving Younger promulgated the “*Ten Commandments of Cross-Examination*.” These commandments have all been violated almost as many times as the Commandments announced by Moses. Nonetheless, they provide a good set of guidelines:

- I. **BE BRIEF.** Make only three points about a witness’ credibility.
- II. **SHORT QUESTIONS, PLAIN WORDS.** Do not use legalese or technical terms.
- III. **NEVER ASK ANYTHING BUT LEADING QUESTIONS.** Who, what, where, when, why, how, explain and describe questions SHOULD NOT be asked on cross.
- IV. **ASK ONLY QUESTIONS TO WHICH YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.** Ask questions that you know you can impeach the witness with if the witness does not say yes as a response.
- V. **LISTEN TO THE ANSWER.** Make sure you get the answer you are looking for.
- VI. **DO NOT ARGUE WITH THE WITNESS.**
- VII. **DO NOT PERMIT A WITNESS TO SIMPLY REPEAT HIS DIRECT TESTIMONY.**
- VIII. **DO NOT LET THE WITNESS EXPLAIN.** Use your witness control techniques to prevent the witness from volunteering information.
- IX. **AVOID ASKING ONE QUESTION TOO MANY.**
- X. **SAVE IT FOR SUMMATION.**

BERNIE L. SEGAL

GGU Litigation Center is a leader in litigation skills, practical training and experiential learning to our litigation students. Our national competition is named after our founding director, the late Professor Bernie L. Segal.



Society of Litigators (GGU Student Organization)

By Caroline Alexander

WHAT IS SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS?

Society of Litigators is a student run organization that strives to create exciting and helpful programming related to criminal and civil litigation. Our mission is to provide opportunities for our members to learn about litigation and related issues from working professionals and GGU faculty. Join us for our lunchtime events.

Whether you want to be a Public Defender, District Attorney, Civil Litigator, or just learn more about the field of litigation, being a part of Society of Litigators provides an opportunity to gain useful knowledge and make valuable contacts.

More information can be found on the GGU Litigation Center TWEN page or the Society of Litigators.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. *The 7th Annual Bernie L. Segal Cross & Close Competition* takes place on Friday, January 19th, 2018. This interschool competition is open to all first year students. More information can be found on the Society of Litigators' TWEN page.

2. *Cross Examination & Closing Argument Workshop:* In Preparation for the 7th Annual Bernie L. Segal Cross & Close Competition, Society of Litigators will be hosting a skills workshop on January 11, 2018 at GGU.

All students are welcome to join.

Closing Arguments Tips

The closing argument is an organized reminder for the jury, a detailed explanation and a passionate argument to persuade the fact finder.

A good closing should serve as a:

- reminder of all the favorable information that the jury heard throughout trial
- detailed explanation of the evidence in clear, simple terms of your case theory and theme
- passionate argument to the jury about how they should view the evidence, what they should do with it and how they should vote in deliberations

Key Reminders

1. “Re-hook” – keep the jury interested
2. Re-visit your theme/theory from your opening statement
3. All witness examinations were constructed with closing in mind (*ABC*: Always Be Closing).
4. Use exhibits and demonstratives to tell your story
5. Argue about what happened at trial “remember when . . .” “today, he said . . .”
6. Emphasize your case strengths and explain inferences
7. Deal frankly with your case weaknesses
8. Force your opponent to answer to the weaknesses in their case
9. You are limited to the record. Never refer to excluded evidence
10. Your personal beliefs and opinions are forbidden

1st STEP – Summer Trial & Evidence Program

by Kaelyn J. Romey

TRAIN AS A LITIGATOR THE SUMMER AFTER YOUR FIRST YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL

GGU Law’s nationally recognized Summer Trial and Evidence Program (1st STEP) prepares students to spend the Fall semester of their 2L year working in law firms, government internships, legal clinics, and other legal settings with the credentials and confidence to appear in court on behalf of clients.

1st STEP features rigorous skills training tailored to hone students’ courtroom technique and provide an early advantage in today’s competitive job market. During the eight-week, nine-unit program, students take Evidence, Trial Advocacy, and a unique Litigation Center course called “Evidence in the Courtroom.”

Students utilize case study exercises, present in workshops, argue motions, and conduct full trials. Every component of 1st STEP enhances student learning by sharpening basic trial skills until they become second nature.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT 1ST STEP

Visit GGU’s Litigation Center website at <http://www.ggulitigation.com>

LITIGATION CENTER 2018 COURSES

1. Jury Picking
2. E-Discovery & Case Management
3. Drafting & Arguing Motions
4. Depositions



“1st STEP was an amazing experience. I discovered my passion for litigation, and gained lifelong friends while I developed networking connections that led to new job opportunities. Whether or not your goal is to be a trial lawyer, 1st STEP lays the groundwork for your success in all aspects of litigation, inside and outside of the courtroom.”

Dustin Cameron (JD 2017)

GGU NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL TEAM



CACJ Trial Team:

**Alyssa Fielding (3L), Lindsey Lepire (3L),
Samara Maharaj (3L), Jason Schmaltz (2L)**

Coaches: Blair Pickus and Tiffany Hansen



SFTLA Trial Team:

**Zach Porter (3L), Nathan Putney (3L),
Roxana Araujo (2L), Mackenzie Parker (2L)**

Coaches: Sylvia Nguyen and Erik Knuppel



Baxter Trial Team:

**Daniel Santos (2L), Vanessa Campbell (2L),
Giorgio Panagos (2L), Art Ngyuen (2L).**

Coaches: Dustin Cameron and Erica Chu



ABA Labor Trial Team:

**Andrew Gabriel (3L), Caroline Alexander (2L),
Jazzy Quintana (2L), Joseph Daughtery (2L).**

Coaches: Erik Faussner and Julia Levitskaia



Stetson Pretrial Trial Team:

**Ashley Lotti (3L), Crystal Mendoza-Velarde (3L),
Ana Allec (3L), Robert Shaw (2L)**

Coaches: Butch Ford and Charly Weissenbach



2017 AWARDS

**STETSON – Best Brief
SFTLA – 1st Place**